

REMARKS

The allowance of claims 8, 18, 22, and the indicated allowability of claims 6, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 25 is noted, with thanks. Claims 6, 14, 15, 16, 17, 25 have been amended to incorporate the base claims from which they depend. Thus, it is believed that claims 6, 8, 14, 15-18, and 25 now are in condition for allowance.

The specification has been amended to employ more idiomatic English. Claims 19 and 22 have been amended to correct typographical errors. Claim 21 has also been amended to depend on claim 9 instead of claim 1. And, claims 1-5, and 10 have been canceled. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Turning to the art rejections, the rejection of claims 9, 11-12, 23-24, 26 and 27 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rosen (US Patent 6,549,039) is in error. Claim 9 requires "when the input signal is at a second logic level corresponding to a voltage of said low-potential power supply, said second MOS transistor is turned off." Rosen teaches turning off the second MOS transistor when the input signal goes high. FIG. 5 timing diagram and column 4 lines 27-45. Thus, Rosen fails to anticipate or for that matter render obvious independent claim 9.

As for the rejection of claims 21 under 35 USC § 103 as being unpatentable over Cheung (US Patent 6,577,165) in view of Rosen claim 21, as amended, is dependent on claim 9. The deficiencies of Rosen vis-à-vis claim 9 are discussed above. Nowhere does Cheung et al. teach a low-voltage input signal for turning off a second MOS transistor. Thus, no combination of Cheung et al. and Rosen could achieve or render obvious claim 9 or its dependent claim 21.

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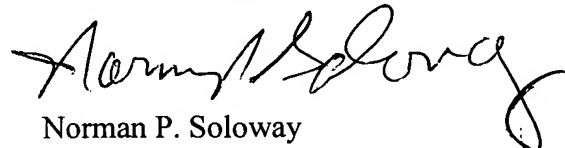
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Form PTO-2838 in the amount of \$800.00 for the added independent claims is enclosed.

Having dealt with all the objections raised by the Examiner, the Application is believed to be in order for allowance. Early and favorable action are respectfully requested.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account Number 08-1391.

Respectfully submitted,

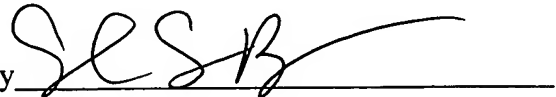


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENTS, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 8, 2004, at Tucson, Arizona.

By



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